

**Reynolds, P., E. Elkin and M. Layefsky (1997). Cancer in California school employees, Environmental Health Investigations Branch, California Department of Health Services.**

**ABSTRACT**

This study examined cancer incidence in professional employees of California schools who were actively employed from September 1987 through September 1992. We linked these employees to the statewide files of the California Cancer registry for cancers newly diagnosed January 1988 through December 1992. During this time period, 4,026 invasive cancers occurred among 271,490 school employees. We calculated sex-, race-, and age-adjusted standardized incidence ratios (SIR) for all cancers and for specific cancer sites. Stratified analyses were also performed for sex, age, race, and employment type. The adjusted SIR for all cancers combined was 0.93 (95% CI=0.90-0.96), slightly lower than the California population as a whole. Melanoma of the skin, thyroid cancer, prostate cancer, and female cancers of the breast, uterus and ovary all occurred more frequently than expected in school employees. In contrast, cancers of the respiratory system, oral cavity, digestive system, urinary system, and uterine cervix occurred less frequently than expected. SIRs were similar for both teachers and other professional school employees. In general, the incidence of cancers thought to be related to hormones and/or higher socioeconomic status appeared elevated while cancers often linked to smoking and/or alcohol intake occurred less frequently in California school employees.

Keywords: breast cancer, lung cancer, thyroid cancer, malignant melanoma, teachers, schools, occupational cohort, record linkage